



# **FORT HANCOCK – SANDY HOOK, NJ**

## **Formerly Used Defense Site**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

### **Description**

Fort Hancock consisted of 1,691.63 acres fee and 1.14 acres easement on Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The site is in Congressional District NJ-6, and is situated about 10 miles south of the entrance to New York Harbor. Fort Hancock was acquired by the U.S. between 1806 and 1909 by various deeds and other instruments. It was used for a variety of purposes, including the Nation's first proving ground, a fort, firing range, anti-aircraft defense, and training. During the 1950s, a Nike battery installation was built. In 1974, the fort was deactivated, and in 1978, 1623.85 acres fee and 1.14 acres easement were transferred to the Department of the Interior. The remaining 67.78 acres fee was transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard. The Department of the Interior – National Park Service and the U.S. Coast Guard are the present owners. Fort Hancock is currently part of the Gateway National Recreation Area operated by the National Park Service.

### **Authorizations**

The Fort Hancock site is being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 authorized that program. The Department of Defense Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) addresses the potential explosives safety, health and environmental issues caused by past munitions-related activities at current and former military installations. MMRP funding for former military installations is provided under the FUDS program.

### **Status (As of January 2012)**

The Corps is performing an MMRP remedial investigation at the former Fort Hancock site. The Site Specific Work Plan for the Fort Hancock site was developed and a Technical Project Planning (TPP) meeting was held with interested stakeholders. A public information meeting was held on January 6, 2011 to present the scope of investigation. Field work began the following week, and continued through March 25, 2011; further work during this phase of effort was suspended because of the presence of nesting shore birds. The field investigation work resumed in October 2011 and was completed in December 2011; a total of nine munitions items were found, but only two of the items discovered contained minor amounts of residual explosive material. Those items were properly removed and disposed of. Several areas were identified which contained metal munitions-related scrap material determined as safe. A remedial investigation report is now being prepared and will be made available to the public later this year, which will include a detailed report of findings and suggestions for any further actions; a public information meeting will be scheduled upon completion of the report.

### **Project Cost**

Estimated Federal Cost [MMRP Remedial Investigation]	\$1,800,000
--	-------------

### **Contact**

Gregory J. Goepfert, New York District Project Manager  
917-790-8235

[Gregory.J.Goepfert@usace.army.mil](mailto:Gregory.J.Goepfert@usace.army.mil)

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – NEW YORK DISTRICT**  
26 Federal Plaza, Jacob K. Javitz Federal Building  
New York, NY 10278  
[www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil)